

Message Text

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R 280046Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CPRS, SN

SUBJECT:EXPULSION OF REVEREND ROBERT FERGUSON FROM
SINGAPORE

REF: A) STATE 8072; B) SINGAPORE 78.

1. LETTER DATED JANUARY 13 FROM REVEREND WESLEY HURST,
FAR EAST SECRETARY, ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CHURCH, 1445
BOONVILLE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65802 TO
REVEREND COGGINS JUST RECEIVED. COPY OF LETTER BEING
POUCHED, BUT PERTINENT EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

QTE: IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF THROUGH THE STATE
DEPARTMENT AND THE EMBASSY IN SINGAPORE A SIMPLE STATEMENT
FROM SINGAPORE IMMIGRATION COULD BE SENT TO MY OFFICE SO
THAT THE MATTER CAN BE COMPLETELY CLEARED UP WITH OUR
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD.

THE ROBERT FERGUSONS ARE NOW PREPARING FOR ANOTHER ASSIGN-
MENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE AMBIGUITY OF THEIR DEPARTURE
FROM SINGAPORE AND THEIR NEED IN ANOTHER FIELD OF
ACTIVITY.

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WITHIN FOUR TO SIX MONTHS WE ARE PLANNING TO OFFER TO THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD OF SINGAPORE AND THUS REQUEST A WORK PERMIT FOR AN EXPERIENCED MISSIONARY COUPLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVANCED BIBLE TRAINING FOR ASSEMBLIES OF GOD MINISTERS AND YOUNG MEN PREPARING FOR THE MINISTRY IN SINGAPORE. IT IS THIS COUPLE THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER TO BE REPLACEMENTS FOR THE FERGUSONS.

PRIOR TO THE PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE FERGUSONS THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD OF SINGAPORE HAD SPONSORED REVEREND NAOMI DOWDY FOR A WORK PERMIT FOR EVANGELISTIC AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES IN SINGAPORE. WE WOULD STILL BE VERY GRATEFUL IF IMMIGRATION IN SINGAPORE WOULD GRANT THIS WORK PERMIT TO MISS DOWDY. END QTE.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD BRING THIS REQUEST TO THE GOS' ATTENTION. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE GOS WOULD VIEW THE CHURCH'S REQUEST AS REASONABLE, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. SHOULD A STATEMENT AS SUCH BE IN YOUR JUDGMENT NOT FEASIBLE, WE WOULD PLAN TO WRITE TO REVEREND HURST FOLLOWING EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATION. KISSINGER

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